

Montrose Daily Press, Volume XII, Number 74, September 29, 1920  — MRS. NORTON TELLS OF GREAT WORK DONE BY ELSIE BENEDICT [ARTICLE]

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MRS. NORTON TELLS OF GREAT WORK DONE BY ELSIE BENEDICT

Writing to her brother and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. William Simmons of this city, Mrs. Hettie A. Norton, formerly of this city, but now of Denver, tells something of the wonderful achievements of Mrs. Elsie Lincoln Benedict, nationally famed speaker, who is a former local girl, Miss Elsie Vandegrift, of whom Montrose is very proud, and has just cause to be so.

Recently Mrs. Norton was Mrs. Benedict's guest at the Hotel Whitcomb in San Francisco, where she spent some time sightseeing and enjoying the lectures of Mrs. Benedict, whom Mrs. Norton designates as the greatest woman orator of America. An excerpt from Mrs. Norton's letter says:

"She is a vast storehouse of knowledge, and has the most interesting, forceful, gracefully easy way of telling it to her audience that they become thoroly convinced at once with the truth of it all. She has left nothing undone to fully acquaint herself with her subjects, therefore it simply flows forth with perfect ease; really I can compare her to nothing more easily than a magnetic dynamo. Her success is almost unbelievable. I will give you a few of the figures that I know, how much more she alone can tell. In the past year she has purchased a \$5,000 car, and over \$60,000 in government bonds, bought her mother a \$5,000 bungalow, endowed an elderly couple to whom she feels grateful with \$1,000 a year for the rest of their lives, and has endowed me with \$600 a year for the rest of my life, payable in monthly installments of \$50 each, because I befriended her when she was a young girl. Besides she paid all my expenses to San Francisco that I might visit her before she left the Pacific coast. She is soon going to meet her husband, J. R. Benedict, in Canada and they will take their vacation together. She needs a rest badly.

"From there she starts in on a lecturing tour thrount the cities of the east. She only lectures in cities of 50,000 and over. After two years in the east she expects to go to London and lecture there and of course visit many points of interest in other countries. I'm sure she will enjoy France for she speaks French fluently. She has her plans mapped out for ten years ahead. Her greatest ambition is to help humanity. She has all her future earnings already spent and her business manager tells me her greatest trouble is to keep Elsie from saying that she hopes some day to have it inbued with the truth of her teachings that she hopes some day to have it reach every living creature who wishes to know and understand it, but at present she is charging big prices and is getting them; she first must make his money to carry out her big plans. Her classes number 500 and over pupils. I can easily figure where she has made \$150,000 in the past year, probably much more. She has written two books, which sell for \$10 each and \$5 to her class members.

"The people of San Francisco are wild about her, they simply adore her and the beauty of it all is, she is not

one bit spoiled. She preaches democracy and she lives it."

Quoting from Mrs. Benedict's letter to her telling of the \$600 endowment, Mrs. Norton says she wrote, "It surely is no mystery to you why I do this. Today I am on easy street, with my financial future sure and safe, all due to two people or at least mostly to them. To you for teaching me so many years ago How to Put Knowledge Over on the Public Platform. Ever since I went into this work I have wanted you to have some of the benefits of it because I never lose sight of the fact that anything I gain is indirectly due to the interest you took in me so long ago and the training you gave me. People are always saying how free and easy and convincing and dynamic I am on the platform, and every time they say it, I say, if I am, it is because Mrs. Norton, my first, and only real, oratory teacher, taught it to me when I was so young it sank in and became a part of me. So I never go thru a day without realizing and remembering that I owe worlds to you—that busy, harassed, brave woman, who, in the midst of it all, took the time and energy and strength to train an obstreperous, headstrong girl how to speak, and all gratuitously."